

Monthly Progress Report #6

For Montana Project #8191

Research in Support of Container/Trailer on Flatcar in Intermodal Service on Montana's Class 1 Railroads RFP# 308128 RP

Reporting Period: November 1, 2007 –November 30, 2007

Submitted by:
Elizabeth Ogard
President
Prime Focus LLC

Submitted to:

Montana Department of Transportation
Research Programs
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

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Task 0: Project Management

The Kick-off meeting for the project was held on June 13, 2007. This task has been completed.

Task 1: Literature Review and Original Research (3.2.1.1)

Additional data sources were identified to provide comparative estimates for export trade volumes. Tabulation of data continued.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Tabulate export product volumes by region.

Task 2: Identification of Users by Geographic Region (3.2.1.1.1)

Due to the poor electronic survey response, we mailed surveys to potential export users in Montana and Canada. A list of over 600 importers and exporters was edited to identify survey recipients.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Tabulation of survey responses.

Task 3: A Terminal Profile (3.2.1.1.2)

Attended Intermodal Association of North American Annual Conference and National Industrial Transportation League meeting. Made many contacts with carriers and shippers about use patterns and interest in the potential terminal in Montana.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Complete report documenting contacts and learnings.

Task 4: Develop Montana Shipper Cost Model ((3.2.1.1.3)

A matrix of truck costs from terminal areas to various export ports was added to.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Complete final report.

Task 5: Document Current Intermodal Activities (3.2.1.1.4)

Spoke with Canadian National World Wide Logistics Services about their “Direct Intermodal” program. This program uses CN tractors and establishes “paper ramps” to support terminals on core intermodal routes. We discussed the process for identifying these terminals and the potential of establishing one in Montana. Talked with Green Prairie Company about their interest in relocating a terminal lift machine for a proposed intermodal pilot study.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Continue discussion with CN World Wide and Green Prairie about a proposed pilot terminal in Montana.

Task 6: Exploration of Railroad Incentives (3.2.1.1.5)

No action on this task until surveys are returned.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Contact UP and proposed incentives.

Task 7: Intermodal Service Recommendation (3.2.1.2)

Draft report to be sent for review February, 2008

Final report and Project Summary Report to be completed by March 1, 2008

Summary of Expenditures

Table 1 summarizes the project costs through November 30, 2007. November 2007 cost activities amounted to \$7,433.85 leaving \$14,530.30 for the remainder of the project.

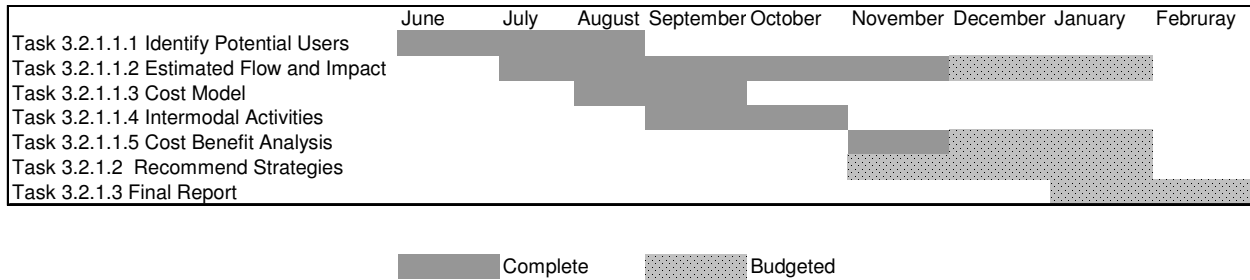
TABLE 1. Summary of Expenditures (June 1, 2007 – November 30, 2007)

Budget Category	Budgeted Funds	Spent This Period	Total Spent	Total Remaining
Labor	\$29,428.25	\$2,250.00	\$28,410.00	\$1,018.25
Subcontract (Direct and Indirect Costs)*	\$19,387.50	\$1,302.00	\$10,098.00	\$9,289.50
Travel	\$4,800.00	\$1,481.37	\$3,535.06	\$1,264.94
Operations/Communication	\$1,000.00	\$150.48	\$880.64	\$119.36
Indirect	\$29,428.25	\$2,250.00	\$26,590.00	\$2,838.25
Total	\$84,044.00	\$7,433.85	\$69,513.70	\$14,530.30

Project Schedule Summary

A summary of the project status is shown in Figure 1. The project has been underway for five months. Due to a poor response from the electronic survey the team will post 250 surveys to targeted large exporters.

FIGURE 1: Project Schedule with Completed Work



Hours Spent in November by Task Break Down

November	Hours By Task	PI Ogard Hours	WTI	
			Stephens Hours	WTI Cole Hours
Task 3.2.1 Kick Off Meeting				
Task 3.2.1.1 Literature Review/Research				
Task 3.2.1.1.1 Identify Potential Users			8	8
Task 3.2.1.1.2 Terminal Profile				
Task 3.2.1.1.3 Cost Model				
Task 3.2.1.1.4 Intermodal Activities				
Task 3.2.1.1.5 Cost Benefit Analysis		15		
Task 3.2.1.2 Recommend Strategies				
November		15	0	8